

Rural Health Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

The following Rural Health Collaborative (RHC) Executive Committee members were in attendance:

Joseph Ciotola, MD

Timothy Shanahan, DO

Roger Harrell, MHA

April Sharp, LCSW

Ken Kozel, MBA, FACHE

Fredia Wadley, MD

Scott LeRoy, MPH

William Webb, MS

Sara Rich, MPA

Also in attendance: Lindsey Snyder, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Health (MDH); Ron Bialek, MPP, Executive Director, RHC, and President, Public Health Foundation (PHF); Kathleen Amos, MLIS, Assistant Director, Academic/Practice Linkages, PHF; Anastasia Brennan, RN, CPN, Intern, PHF; Sara Seitz, MPH, Director, State Office of Rural Health, MDH

Welcome and Review of Agenda

Joseph Ciotola, MD, Queen Anne's County Health Officer

Meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by RHC President Joseph Ciotola, MD.

Review and Approval of January 27, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Joseph Ciotola, MD, Queen Anne's County Health Officer

Dr. Ciotola requested any comments on the draft minutes for the January 27, 2020 RHC Executive Committee meeting. No additions or corrections were provided. Fredia Wadley, MD, made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Scott LeRoy, MPH, seconded the motion. The RHC Executive Committee approved the minutes.

Revised Criteria Related to the Rural Health Complex

Ron Bialek, MPP, RHC Executive Director

- RHC Executive Director Ron Bialek, MPP, reviewed the plan for RHC work and what it needs to achieve by December 2020, as well as the revised draft of criteria that a community must meet to establish a rural health complex and criteria for the rural health complex.
- RHC Executive Committee members discussed the revised draft of criteria that a community must meet to establish a rural health complex and criteria for the rural health complex. Discussion included ways to determine which criteria to include, the possibility of ranking criteria in terms of importance, the need for flexibility to address local and changing needs and priorities, implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the value of Choptank Community Health System, telemedicine, Mobile Integrated Community Health, the need for Spanish speaking providers, and how community needs should be determined.

USDA Rural Development [Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#)

Ron Bialek, MPP, RHC Executive Director

Mr. Bialek shared information about a rural development grant program through the US Department of Agriculture designed to improve access to distance learning and telemedicine. RHC Executive Committee members discussed potential opportunities related to the grant program.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Joseph Ciotola, MD, Queen Anne's County Health Officer

RHC Executive Director staff will further refine the draft criteria and explore options for ranking draft criteria prior to the June RHC meeting.

The June RHC meeting will likely be held virtually.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm.